

# COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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*To the Freeholders of the County of Southampton.*

Gentlemen,

Our triumph yesterday was as complete as even I could have wished; for, though the Sheriff did, at last, decide the *disputed* point as to the *show of hands* against me, there was, I believe, not a single individual present, who was not convinced that a majority of the numerous assemblage were in my favour; or, rather, in favour of the honour and freedom of the country.

—In the course of my address to you, and which you received in a manner which convinced me that success must finally attend our exertions, I made many *assertions*, which assertions, I will, in my next Number, prove to be *strictly true*. I am now absent from my books and papers; but, in my next, I will not only go fully into all the matters here alluded to; but will also lay before you a plan for effecting an emancipation from the trammels which now disgrace the Freeholders of this county. In the mean while, Gentlemen, I am

Your faithful friend,

WILLIAM COBBETT.

Winchester, October 14, 1812.

## OFFICIAL PAPERS.

NORTHERN WAR.—*Sixteenth Bulletin of the Grand French Army.*

(Continued from page 475.)

result of this small affair. The positions of the enemy were carried, and he was obliged to quicken his retreat.—On the 28th, the enemy was pursued. The advanced guards of three French columns came up with the rear guard of the enemy; they exchanged several cannon shot. The enemy was driven every where.—General Count Caulincourt entered Viasma on the 29th, at day-break.—The enemy had burned the bridges, and set fire to several quarters of the city. Viasma is a town of 15,000 inhabitants: there are 4,000 burghers, merchants, and artisans; there are 32 churches. Considerable re-

sources in flour, soap, drugs, &c. and large magazines of brandy were found.—

The Russians burnt the magazines, and the finest houses in the town were on fire at our arrival. Two battalions of the 25th were employed with much activity in extinguishing them. We got it under and saved three quarters of the town. The Cossacks before they left it committed the dreadfulest pillage, which has made the inhabitants say, that the Russians think Viasma will be no longer under their dominion, since they treat it in so barbarous a manner. All the population of the towns retires upon Moscow. It is said there are now one million and a half of souls in that great city. They fear the result of these crowds. The inhabitants say that General Kutusow has been appointed Commander in Chief of the Russian army, and that he took the command on the 28th.—The Grand Duke Constantine, who had returned to the army, having fallen ill, has quitted it.—A little rain has fallen, which has laid the dust that incommoded the army. The weather to-day is very fine—it will last, as they believe, to the 19th Oct., which gives us still 40 days' campaign.

*Seventeenth Bulletin of the Grand Army, Ghjat, Sept. 3.*

The head-quarters were, on the 31st of August, at Velitchero; on the 1st and 2d of September at Ghjat.—The King of Naples, with the advanced guard, had his head-quarters on the 1st, ten wersts in advance of Ghjat; the Viceroy had his the same distance in advance on the left; and Prince Poniatowski had pushed forward two leagues on the right. Some discharges of artillery and attacks with the sabre were exchanged in each direction, and a few hundreds of prisoners were taken.—The Ghjat river empties itself into the Wolga.—Thus we are in possession of the course of those waters that flow into the Caspian Sea. The Ghjat is navigable to the Wolga.—The City of Ghjat contains a population of eight or ten thousand souls. Many of the houses are built of stone and



brick. There are many parish churches, and several manufactories of linen cloth. It is perfectly clear that agriculture has made great progress in this country within the last forty years. It no longer bears any resemblance to the descriptions which are given of it. Potatoes, pulse, and cabbages grow there in abundance: the granaries are full. The present is the harvest season, and we enjoy now the same weather here as we have in France at the commencement of October.—The deserters, the prisoners, the inhabitants, all agree that the greatest confusion prevails at Moscow, and in the Russian army, which is distracted with a diversity of opinions, and has suffered enormous losses in the different actions. Some of the Generals have been changed. It appears that the opinion of the army is not favourable to the plans of Barclay de Tolly: he is accused of having made his divisions fight in detail.—The Prince of Schwartzburg is in Volhynia: the Russians fly before him.—Some sharp affairs have taken place before Rioga; the Prussians have always had the advantage.—We have found in this place two Bulletins, which give an account of the actions before Smolensk, and of the battle of the Drissa. They have appeared sufficiently curious to be annexed to this Bulletin. When we shall receive the sequel of these Bulletins, they shall be sent to the *Moniteur*. It appears by their contents that the Editor has profited by those instructions he received from Moscow, "that the truth is not to be told to the Russian people, but that they are to be deceived with lies." Smolensk was set on fire by the Russians. They set fire to the suburbs on the day after the battle, when they saw our bridge established over the Boristhenes. They also set fire to Dorohoboni, to Viasma, and to Ghjat; but the French came up in time to extinguish it. This may be easily conceived. The French have no interest in burning those towns that belong to them, and in depriving themselves of the resources which they afford. The cellars have been every where filled with brandy, leather, and every species of article that is useful to an army.—If the country be wasted, if the inhabitants suffer more than a state of war warrants, the fault is in the Russians.—The army rested on the 2d and 3d in the vicinity of Ghjat.—It is positively asserted, that the enemy is employed in forming an intrenched camp in front of Mojaïsk, and has established lines

before Moscow.—At the battle of Krasnoi, Colonel Marbeuf, of the sixth light cavalry, was wounded with a bayonet at the head of his regiment, in the midst of a square of Russian infantry, which he had penetrated with the greatest intrepidity.—We have thrown six bridges over the Ghjat.—(*Moniteur*, Sept. 18.)

*The following are the Russian articles alluded to in the Seventeenth Bulletin.*

*Military Intelligence.*—On the 4th (16th) of August, the Emperor Napoleon, at the head of his whole army, 100,000 strong, made his appearance before Smolensk. He was received about six wersts from the city, by the corps of Lieut.-Gen. Rayewsky. The battle commenced at six o'clock in the morning, and at noon became most bloody. The courage of the Russians overcame numbers, and the enemy was overthrown. The corps of Gen. Doctorow, which had arrived to replace that of Rayewsky, attacked the enemy on the 5th (17th) at day-light, and the engagement lasted till night-fall. The enemy was repulsed at every point, and the Russian soldiers, full of that courage and intrepidity which animates them in the defence of their country, fought with desperacy, invoking the assistance of the Almighty.—But during this time the city of Smolensk was a prey to the flames, and our troops took a position between the Dnieper, the village of Peneva, and Doroghoboni.—The capture of Smolensk, which was reduced to ashes by the enemy, cost them more than 20,000 men. The inhabitants had all left it previous to the battle. The loss in killed and wounded on our side amounts to 4,000 men. The brave Generals Skalen and Bulla are amongst the former.—We have made a great number of prisoners, and whole battalions of the enemy's army were obliged to lay down their arms in order to escape death. Three regiments of Cossacks and three of cavalry overthrew sixty squadrons of the enemy's horse, commanded by the King of Naples.

*Report of Lieutenant-General Count Wiltgenstein to his Majesty the Emperor, dated Oswec, July 31 (Aug. 12), 1812.*

I have received information from my advanced posts, that the enemy was making every effort from Polotsk to carry them, and by prisoners and deserters, that the French Grand Army was constantly receiving reinforcements of Bavarian and Wirtem-



burg troops.—I received at the same time from the Minister of War, intelligence of the junction of the two armies, together with orders to attack them immediately in flank.—I accordingly detached four squadrons under the command of Major Bedraghi, whom I directed to observe every movement of Macdonald's army, and give me notice thereof. I advanced against Oudinot's corps, which I met on the evening of the 29th, four wersts from Rochoaowa.—Having immediately made the necessary arrangements, I yesterday vigorously attacked him, with the help of God.—After eight hours' constant fighting, the enemy was routed and pursued, till night came on, by his Majesty's brave troops.—We have taken three officers and 250 soldiers. The loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded, has been considerable. Their cuirassiers, particularly, have suffered much, in consequence of their attempts to take our guns. I caused them to be pursued by the Hussars of Grodno, who distinguished themselves on this occasion. We have lost 400 men in killed and wounded, among whom we have particularly to lament the death of the gallant Colonel Dennissen, who commanded the 25th regiment of chasseurs, and who was killed by a cannon-ball.—I mean to pursue the enemy to the Dwina.

#### SURRENDER OF THE AMERICAN ARMY.

*London Gazette Extraordinary, Oct. 6.*

*(Continued from page 478.)*

intelligence received from that quarter admitting of no delay, Colonel Proctor was directed to assume the command, and his force was soon after increased with 60 rank and file of the 41st regiment.—In the mean time, the most strenuous measures were adopted to counteract the machinations of the evil-disposed; and I soon experienced the gratification of receiving voluntary offers of service from that portion of the embodied Militia the most easily collected. In the attainment of this important point, Gentlemen of the first character and influence shewed an example highly creditable to them; and I cannot on this occasion avoid mentioning the essential assistance I derived from John McDonnell, Esq. His Majesty's Attorney-General, who, from the beginning of the war, has honoured me with his services as my Provincial Aid-de-Camp. A suffi-

ciency of boats being collected at Long Point for the conveyance of three hundred men, the embarkation took place on the 8th instant, and in five days arrived in safety at Amherstburg. I found that the judicious arrangement, which had been adopted immediately upon the arrival of Colonel Proctor, had compelled the enemy to retreat, and take shelter under the guns of his fort: that officer commenced operations by sending strong detachments across the river, with a view of cutting off the enemy's communication with his reserve. This produced two smart skirmishes on the 5th and 9th instant, in both of which the enemy's loss was very considerable, whilst our's amounted to three killed, and thirteen wounded; amongst the latter I have particularly to regret Captain Muir and Lieutenant Sutherland, of the 41st regiment; the former an officer of great experience, and both ardent in His Majesty's service. Batteries had likewise been commenced opposite Fort Detroit, for one eighteen-pounder, two twelve, and two five-and-an-half-inch mortars; all of which opened on the evening of the 15th (having previously summoned Brigadier-General Hull to surrender); and although opposed by a well-directed fire from seven twenty-four-pounders, such was their construction, under the able directions of Captain Dixon of the Royal Engineers, that no injury was sustained from its effect.—The force at my disposal being collected in the course of the 15th, in the neighbourhood of Sandwich, the embarkation took place a little after day-light on the following morning, and by the able arrangements of Lieut. Dewar of the Quarter-Master-General's Department, the whole was, in a short time, landed without the smallest confusion at Spring Well, a good position, three miles west of Detroit. The Indians, who had in the mean time effected their landing two miles below, moved forwards and occupied the woods, about a mile and an half on our left.—The force, which I instantly directed to march against the enemy, consisted of 30 Royal Artillery, two hundred and fifty 41st regiment, fifty Royal Newfoundland regiment, four hundred Militia, and about six hundred Indians, to which were attached three 6-pounders and two 3-pounders. The services of Lieut. Troughton, commanding the Royal Artillery, an active and intelligent officer, being required in the field, the direction of the batteries was intrusted to Captain Hall, and the ma-



rine department; and I cannot withhold my entire approbation of their conduct on this occasion.—I crossed the river, with an intention of waiting in a strong position the effect of our force upon the enemy's camp, and in the hope of compelling him to meet us in the field; but receiving information upon landing, that Col. M'Arthur, an officer of high reputation, had left the garrison three days before, with a detachment of 500 men, and hearing soon afterwards that his cavalry had been seen that morning three miles in our rear, I decided on an immediate attack. Accordingly the troops advanced to within one mile of the fort, and having ascertained that the enemy had taken little or no precaution towards the land-side, I resolved on an assault, whilst the Indians penetrated his camp. Brigadier-General Hull, however, prevented this movement, by proposing a cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of preparing terms of capitulation. Lieutenant-Colonel John M'Donnell and Captain Glegg were accordingly deputed by me on this mission, and returned within an hour with the conditions which I have the honour herewith to transmit. Certain considerations afterwards induced me to agree to the two supplementary articles.—The force thus surrendered to His Majesty's arms cannot be estimated at less than 2,500 men. In this estimate, Colonel M'Arthur's detachment is included, as he surrendered, agreeably to the terms of capitulation, in the course of the evening, with the exception of 200 men, whom he left escorting a valuable convoy at some little distance in his rear; but there can be no doubt the officer commanding will consider himself equally bound by the capitulation.—The enemy's aggregate force was divided into two troops of cavalry; one company of artillery regulars; the fourth United States regiment; detachments of the 1st and 3d United States regiments, volunteers; three regiments of the Ohio Militia; one regiment of the Michigan territory.—Thirty-three pieces of brass and iron ordnance have already been secured.—When this contest commenced, many of the Indian nations were engaged in active warfare with the United States, notwithstanding the constant endeavours of this Government to dissuade them from it. Some of the principal Chiefs happened to be at Amherstburg, trying to procure a supply of arms and ammunition, which for years had been withheld, agreeably to the instructions received from Sir James Craig, and since re-

peated by your Excellency.—From that moment they took a most active part, and appeared foremost on every occasion; they were led yesterday by Colonel Elliott and Captain M'Kee, and nothing could exceed their order and steadiness. A few prisoners were taken by them during the advance, whom they treated with every humanity; and it affords me much pleasure in assuring your Excellency, that such was their forbearance and attention to what was required of them, that the enemy sustained no other loss in men than what was occasioned by the fire of our batteries.—The high sense I entertain of the abilities and judgment of Lieutenant-Colonel Myers, induced me to appoint him to the most important command at Niagara; it was with reluctance I deprived myself of his assistance, but had no other expedient; his duties as head of the Quarter-Master-General's department were performed to my satisfaction by Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholls, Quarter-Master-General of the Militia.—Captain Glegg, my Aid-de-Camp, will have the honour of delivering this dispatch to your Excellency; he is charged with the colours taken at the capture of Fort Detroit, and those of the 4th United States regiment.—Captain Glegg is capable of giving your Excellency every information respecting the state of this province; and I shall esteem myself highly indebted to your Excellency to afford him that protection, to which his merit and length of service give him a powerful claim.—I have the honour to be, &c.

ISAAC BROCK, Major-Gen.

P. S. I have the honour to enclose a copy of a Proclamation, which I issued immediately on taking possession of this country.—I should have mentioned in the body of my dispatch the capture of the *Adams*; she is a fine vessel, and recently repaired, but without arms.

*Camp at Detroit, Aug. 16, 1812.*

CAPITULATION for the Surrender of Fort Detroit, entered into between Major-Gen. Brock, commanding His Britannic Majesty's Forces, on the one part, and Brigadier-General Hull, commanding the North-western Army of the United States, on the other part.

Art. I. Fort Detroit, with all the troops, regulars as well as militia, will be immediately surrendered to the British forces under the command of Major-General Brock, and will be considered prisoners of war, with the exception of such of the militia of the



Michigan territory who have not joined the army.—II. All public stores, arms, and all public documents, including every thing else of a public nature, will be immediately given up.—III. Private persons and property of every description will be respected.—IV. His Excellency Brigadier-General Hull, having expressed a desire that a detachment from the state of Ohio, on its way to join his army, as well as one sent from Fort Detroit, under the command of Colonel M'Arthur, should be included in the capitulation, it is accordingly agreed to. It is, however, to be understood, that such part of the Ohio militia as have not joined the army will be permitted to return to their homes, on condition that they will not serve during the war; their arms will be delivered up, if belonging to the public.—V. The garrison will march out at the hour of twelve this day, and the British forces will take immediate possession of the fort.

J. MACDONELL, Lieut.-Col. Militia,  
P. A. D. C.

J. B. GLEGG, Major, A. D. C.

JAMES MILLER, Lieut.-Col. 5th U. S.  
Infantry.

E. BRUSH, Colonel commanding 1st  
Regiment of Michigan Militia.

Approved,

W. HULL, Brig.-Gen. commanding  
the N. W. Army.

Approved, ISAAC BROCK, Major-Gen.

An Article Supplementary to the Articles  
of Capitulation, concluded at Detroit, the  
16th Aug. 1812.

It is agreed, that the officers and soldiers  
of the Ohio Militia and Volunteers shall be  
permitted to proceed to their respective  
homes, on this condition, that they do not  
serve during the present war, unless they  
are exchanged.

W. HULL, Brig. Gen.  
commanding U. S. N. W. Army.

ISAAC BROCK, Major-Gen.

An Article in addition to the Supplementary  
Article of Capitulation, concluded at De-  
troit, Aug. 16, 1812.

It is farther agreed, that the officers and  
soldiers of the Michigan Militia and Volun-  
teers, under the command of Major We-  
therall, shall be placed on the same princi-  
ples as the Ohio Militia and Volunteers are  
placed by the supplementary article of the  
16th inst.

W. HULL, Brig. Gen.  
commanding N. W. Army U. S.

ISAAC BROCK, Major-Gen.

Return of Ordnance taken in the Fort and  
Batteries at Detroit, Aug. 16, 1812.

Iron ordnance—9 twenty-four pounders,  
8 twelve-pounders, 5 nine-pounders, 3 six-  
pounders. Brass ordnance—3 six-pound-  
ers, 2 four-pounders, 1 three-pounder, 1  
eight-inch howitzer, 1 five and half inch  
ditto.—Total of ordnance, 33.

FELIX TROUGHTON,  
Lt. Com. Royal Artillery.

N. B. No time to take an inventory of  
ordnance stores, &c. and no return could be  
procured from the American officer.

*Proclamation by Isaac Brock, Esq. Major-  
General, commanding His Majesty's  
Forces in the Province of Upper Canada,  
&c.*

Whereas the territory of Michigan was  
this day, by capitulation, ceded to the arms  
of His Britannic Majesty, without any other  
condition than the protection of private pro-  
perty; and wishing to give an early proof  
of the moderation and justice of His Ma-  
jesty's Government, I do hereby announce  
to all the inhabitants of the said territory,  
that the laws heretofore in existence shall  
continue in force until His Majesty's plea-  
sure be known, or so long as the peace and  
safety of the said territory will admit there-  
of; and I do hereby also declare, and make  
known to the said inhabitants, that they  
shall be protected in the full exercise and  
enjoyment of their religion, of which all  
persons, both civil and military, will take  
notice, and govern themselves accordingly.  
—All persons having in their possession,  
or having any knowledge of any public  
property, shall forthwith deliver in the  
same, or give notice thereof to the officer  
commanding, or Lieut.-Col. Nicholl, who  
are duly authorized to receive and give pro-  
per receipts for the same.—Officers of Mi-  
litia will be held responsible, that all arms  
in possession of the militia-men be immedi-  
ately delivered up, and all individuals  
whatever who have in their possession arms  
of any kind will deliver them up without  
delay.—Given under my hand, at De-  
troit, this 16th day of August, 1812, and in  
the 52d year of His Majesty's reign.

ISAAC BROCK, Major-Gen.

#### SUBLIME HUMBUG.

Of all the instances, in which the people  
of England have been deceived as to the  
events of the war, the most complete is re-  
corded in the following documents; to wit,



1st, An article published in the London Courier of the 7th of Oct. 1812; 2d, An Extraordinary Gazette, published by the Government on the same day, with Lord Cathcart's Letter; 3d, three Articles from St. Petersburg, published in the Courier of the same day; 4th, Two Russian Bulletins relating to the battle of *Mojaisk* (or *Brodino*); 5th, Two French Bulletins, giving an account of the same battle, and of the arrival of Napoleon in Moscow.

## No. I.

*A great Victory gained by the Russians!!*

—A very different account, thank Heaven! is given of this battle from that communicated in the French Bulletin. The Russians claim a signal victory, and have celebrated it at Petersburg by the discharge of 101 guns, and by TE DEUM, at which all the Royal Family assisted. They report that Davoust was killed, and Murat and Ney taken. The 18th Bulletin informed us that "Davoust had received no injury," but said nothing of Murat and Ney having been taken; nor did it make the slightest mention of any French Generals made prisoners, though we have no doubt there were. Buonaparté confessed having had six Generals killed, and seven or eight wounded. Montbrun or Caulincourt, who were killed, may have been mistaken for Davoust.

## No. II.

*The London Gazette Extraordinary.*

Foreign Office, Oct. 7, 1812.—A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this day received by Viscount Castlereagh, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from his Excellency Viscount Cathcart, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of the Emperor of ALL THE RUSSIAS.

*St. Petersburg, Sept. 13, 1812.*

My Lord,—I am most happy in having to begin my correspondence from St. Petersburg, by announcing that the arms of his Imperial Majesty have been victorious in a most obstinate and general action, fought on the 7th September, at the village of *Brodino*, between *Mojaisk* and *Tjate*, on the great road from *Smolensk* to *Moscow*.—It appears that Buonaparté had concentrated his forces after the affair of *Smolensk*.—Prince Koutousoff, on his part, had selected a position, and had established his forces in its vicinity.—On

the 4th September the enemy made a reconnoissance in force, and was driven back with loss.—On the 5th September, the French attacked the left, and were repulsed with considerable slaughter, both in the action and in the retreat, and with the loss of seven or eight pieces of ordnance.—On the 6th September nothing of consequence took place; but Prince Koutousoff brought up his reserves, completed his dispositions, and added several intrenchments and batteries on his left.—On the 7th September, under cover of a thick mist, the French again attacked the left with great impetuosity, and with all the means and successions of fresh troops that they have hitherto employed in their most desperate exertions.—They were received by the divisions of grenadiers belonging to the left wing, commanded by Prince Bagration; and the centre of the Russian line having in its turn attacked the mass directed against the left, the affair became general.—Prince Koutousoff dates his dispatch from the field of battle.—The enemy are stated to have covered their retreat by the Wirtemberg infantry, and by large corps of cavalry.—General Platow, however, with the Cossacks, followed them, and killed or took great numbers.—The enemy retreated upwards of thirteen versts. I have detained this dispatch two days, in expectation of further events, and of a more detailed report; but as letters have been received as late as the 9th September, I have thought it expedient to transmit, in its present form, the account of an affair which must for ever add lustre to the military achievements of this empire, and which, though it may not be decisive, must at least prove a most important feature in the history of this war.—I have seen letters from distinguished officers of great experience; they consider this as by far the most dreadful and destructive engagement they ever witnessed, infinitely beyond that of Prussian Eylaw.—Several General Officers have been wounded, besides those named; and the loss of officers of other ranks is stated to have been in proportion to that of the men. I have not heard the Russian loss estimated at less than 25,000 men.—The loss of the French should be infinitely greater, because of the pursuit, and because the fire of their artillery ceased at an early hour, while that of the Russians continued as long as the guns could be brought to bear.—The new raised troops from Moscow were brought up, and appear to be perfectly efficient. Those who were



engaged behaved well. The right wing was not much called upon; and of the Guards one battalion only is stated to have sustained any loss.—Reports have been received of the junction of the head of the army from Moldavia with General Tormazoff's corps, which, with another corps, consisting of several divisions, which has joined that officer, will amount to an army of eighty thousand men, of the best description.—The corps of eighteen thousand men which embarked at Helsingfors, has landed at Revel, and is by this time near Riga, which will lead to an immediate reinforcement of General Wittgenstein's corps.—Too much praise cannot be given to the national spirit which animates all ranks of the Russians, especially those properly so called, and the most sanguine expectations which were formed of their conduct have been exceeded.—It appears that much reliance was placed by Buonaparte on the effects of his attempts to introduce French principles, and a popular cry of emancipation and liberty; but that they have been received as an artifice to destroy their liberty and their religion; and it is very confidently asserted, that he has given very strong marks of indignation against those upon whose reports of the disposition of the people he relied.—I have enclosed herewith translations of the Bulletins of the affairs of the 5th and 7th September, new style.—The accounts of the battle of the 7th reached the Emperor early on the morning of his name-day, which is always celebrated with religious and other ceremonies, and illuminations. *His Imperial Majesty immediately sent an Aid-de-Camp to notify it to me;* and after divine worship in the Cathedral, in presence of their Imperial Majesties and the whole Court, an officer was ordered to read the Bulletin aloud, which gave the populace an opportunity of expressing their exultation.—A corps of militia, of ten thousand men, received their colours this morning, and are to march in two days from hence.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CATHCART.

### No. III.

*St. Petersburg, Aug. 30, O. S. (Sept. 11).*

We have, thank God! glorious news from the interior. No news of the battle is published yet, and consequently we cannot discriminate what is official from what is only report. Certain it is, that a general and bloody battle was fought on the 26th,

O. S. (7th Sept.) not very far from Moscow, in which the whole of the two grand armies were engaged, and the enemy's completely defeated. It is said the image of the VIRGIN MARY was brought from the Cathedral of Moscow, and placed in front of the Russian army before the battle. General Koutouzoff and all his officers then pledged themselves, by a solemn oath, to conquer or die. This ceremony operated on the Russian army like electricity, and the attack instantly commenced, with an impetuosity beyond all example. The slaughter of the enemy is said to be immense, and he was already driven fifteen wersts from the field of battle, when the dispatch was sent off, which was done before any account of the number of killed, wounded, and prisoners could be made up, that the account might reach the Emperor yesterday, being St. Alexander's day.—This intelligence arrived just as the Imperial Family were going to church, and it may easily be imagined with what grateful feelings the TE DEUM (always sung on that day) was celebrated.—The victory was announced to the public by the discharge of 101 great guns from the citadel, and the town illuminated in the evening.—It is said that Davoust is among the killed, Murat and Ney among the prisoners.

*St. Petersburg, 12th Sept. N. S.*

At ten o'clock a Courier had arrived from Prince Koutouzoff, dated 111 wersts in the neighbourhood of Mojaïsk; that he had been attacked by the French at Borodina, and, in a general engagement, the French were repulsed at all points, leaving 25,000 killed and wounded, and 16,000 prisoners. The official Bulletin was expected to be printed every moment, and it was with difficulty they could make the Russians take any prisoners. When the Courier had left the field of battle, the Russians had broken through the centre of the French army, which retired precipitately three wersts, and Platoff was in pursuit with the Uhlans and Cossacks.—This is the report of the Minister to the people. The important victory was announced by the firing of guns from the citadel.

*St. Petersburg, Sept. 13.*

This moment has been published the official account, that General Koutouzoff has totally defeated the French, and taken 20,000 prisoners, among whom are the Viceroy of Italy and Marshal Ney. Davoust is dead.—Another account says,



that the battle was fought 20 wersts from Moscow, on the (27th ult.) 8th Sept. It is said that Murat is among the prisoners.

—Various other letters from St. Petersburg have been received; they all agree that the result of the battle was in favour of the Russians. It is stated in some of them that the French lost 100 pieces of cannon. One of them concludes with observing, that the rejoicings at St. Petersburg on account of the victory was excessive: he says he could not write for the roaring of cannon.

#### No. IV.

*(Translation.)—Bulletin A.*

Prince Koutouzoff, General of Infantry, Commander in Chief of all the armies, reports to his Imperial Majesty as follows, from the village of Brodino, under date of the 6th September:—After my last most humble report to your Imperial Majesty, in which I announced that I was waiting the attack of the enemy in the position of Brodino, the 5th September, the enemy directed a very strong force against our left flank, which was commanded by Prince Bagration. Observing the impetuosity with which the main force of the enemy threw themselves upon this point, I judged it necessary, in order to fix his attack, to direct it against the heights, which had been previously fortified. The engagement lasted, with great obstinacy, from two o'clock until very late at night; and your Majesty's troops displayed on that day the bravery which I had observed from my first joining the army. The second division of cuirassiers being obliged to make its second attack in the dusk, particularly distinguished itself, and in general all the troops, so far from losing an inch of ground, defeated the enemy on every side, with much greater loss than they sustained themselves: eight guns were taken, of which three, being rendered totally useless, were left on the field.—Many officers deserve to be individually named to your Majesty, a list of whom I shall forthwith have the happiness of transmitting; for the present I confine myself to giving your Majesty a precis.

*(Translation.)—Bulletin B.*

General Prince Koutouzoff, Commander in Chief of the armies, makes most respectfully to his Imperial Majesty the following report from the field of battle at the village of Brodino, the 8th of September.—Since my report of the attack which the

enemy had made on the 5th instant, with a considerable force upon the left flank of our army, nothing of importance was undertaken against us during the whole of the 6th. But yesterday, at day-break, that is to say, about four o'clock in the morning, the enemy, availing himself of the foggy weather, again directed the whole of his forces against our left flank.—The battle became general, and lasted until night: the loss on both sides is great; that of the enemy, to judge from his terrible attacks upon our fortified position, must greatly have surpassed ours. Your Imperial Majesty's troops fought with incredible valour. The batteries passed from the possession of one party to that of the other, and the result was, that the enemy, with his superior force, has, in no one part, gained an inch of ground. I remained at night master of the field of battle. So soon as I shall have recruited my troops, supplied my artillery, and augmented my forces by reinforcements from Moscow, I shall, trusting in the assistance of the Almighty, and the incredible valour of the army, see what I can undertake against the enemy.—Prince Bagration, to our great regret, has been wounded in the foot by a ball. Lieutenant-Generals Toutschkoff, Prince Gortschakoff, Major-Generals Bachmstieff, Counts Woronzoff and Kretoff, have been wounded. We have taken from the enemy some prisoners, some guns, and a General of Brigade. It is still night; and I have not been able to procure any more details.—His Imperial Majesty, in acknowledgment of the distinguished services of the General of Infantry, Prince Koutouzoff, has been pleased to appoint him Marshal General, and to grant to him 100,000 roubles, and also five roubles to each soldier who has had a share in this memorable battle.

#### No. V.

*Eighteenth Bulletin of the Grand French Army.—Mojaisk, Sept. 10, 1812.*

On the 4th the Emperor set out from Ghjat, and encamped near the post of Gritneva.—The 5th, at six o'clock in the morning, the army put itself in motion. At two in the afternoon, we perceived the Russians formed with their right upon Moskwa, the left upon the heights on the left bank of the Kologha. At 1,200 toises in advance of the left, the enemy had begun to fortify a fine height, between two woods, where they had placed 9 or 10,000 men. The Emperor having reconnoitred



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it, resolved not to lose a moment, and to carry this position. Orders were given to the King of Naples to pass the Kologha, with the division Compans and the cavalry. Prince Poniatowski, who had marched on the right, was in a condition to turn the position. At four o'clock the attack commenced. In one hour the enemy's redoubt was carried, with the cannon; the enemy's corps driven from the wood, and put to flight, leaving the third part on the field of battle. At seven in the evening the firing ceased.—On the 6th, at two o'clock in the morning, the Emperor surveyed the enemy's advanced posts: the day was passed in reconnoitring. The enemy were in a position much contracted. Their left was weakened by the loss of the position on the day before; backed by a large wood, supported by a fine height, crowned by a redoubt, planted with twenty-five pieces of cannon. Two other heights, crowned with redoubts at 100 paces from each other, protected their line, as far as a large village which the enemy had destroyed, to cover the ridge with artillery and infantry, and to support the centre. Their right extended behind the Kologha, in the rear of the village of Borodino, and was supported by two fine heights, crowned with redoubts, and fortified with batteries. This position appeared strong and favourable. It was easy to manœuvre, and to oblige the enemy to evacuate it, but that would have been renouncing our object, and the position was not judged sufficiently strong to render it necessary to avoid fighting. It was easy to perceive that the redoubts were but half formed, the fosse shallow, and neither palisaded nor defended with chevaux de-frise. We reckoned the enemy's force at about 120 or 130,000 men. Our forces were equal, but the superiority of our troops was not doubtful.—On the 7th, at two in the morning, the Emperor was surrounded by the Marshals in the position taken the evening before. At half past five o'clock, the sun rose without clouds: it had rained the preceding evening. "This is the sun of Austerlitz," said the Emperor. Though but the month of September, it was as cold as a December in Moravia. The army received the omen: the drum beat, and the following order of the day was read:—"Soldiers! there is the field of battle you have so much desired! henceforth victory depends on you: it is necessary to us: it will give us plenty, good quarters for the winter, and a speedy return to your country. Behave yourselves as you

did at Austerlitz, at Friedland, Vitepsk, at Smolensk: and that the latest posterity may speak of your conduct this day with pride—that it may say of you, 'He was at that great battle under the walls of Moscow.'—At the Imperial Camp, on the heights of Borodino, 7th Sept. three o'clock *a. m.*"—The army answered with reiterated acclamations. The ground on which the army stood was spread with the dead bodies of the Russians killed the preceding day.—Prince Poniatowski, who was on the right, put himself in motion to turn the forest on which the enemy rested his left. The Prince of Eckmühl marched on the skirt of the forest, the division Compans at the head. Two batteries of 60 cannon each, commanding the enemy's position, had been constructed in the night.—At six o'clock, General Count Sorbier, who had armed the battery on the right with the artillery of the reserve of the guard, commenced the fire, General Permetty, with thirty pieces of cannon, put himself at the head of the division Compans (4th of the 1st corps), who skirted the wood, turning the head of the enemy's position. At half past six General Compans was wounded; at seven the Prince of Eckmühl had his horse killed. The attack advanced; the musketry commenced. The Viceroy, who formed our left, attacks and carries the village of Borodino, which the enemy could not defend; that village being on the left bank of the Kologha. At seven the Marshal Duke of Elchingen put himself in motion, and under the protection of sixty pieces of cannon, which General Foucher had placed the evening before against the enemy's centre, bore upon the centre. A thousand pieces of cannon spread death on all sides.—At eight o'clock the positions of the enemy were carried, his redoubts taken, and our artillery crowned his heights. The advantage of position which the enemy's batteries had enjoyed for two hours, now belonged to us. The parapets which had been occupied against us during the attack, were now to our advantage. The enemy saw the battle lost, which he thought had only commenced. A part of his artillery was taken; the rest was withdrawn to his lines in the rear. In this extremity he attempted to restore the combat, and to attack with all his masses those strong positions which he was unable to protect. Three hundred pieces of French cannon placed on these heights, thundered upon his masses, and his soldiers died at the foot of those parapets which they had



raised with so much labour, and as a protecting shelter.—The King of Naples, with the cavalry, made various charges. The Duke of Elchingen covered himself with glory, and displayed as much intrepidity as coolness. The Emperor ordered a charge of the front, the right in advance; this movement made us masters of three parts of the field of battle. Prince Poniatowski fought in the wood with various success.—There still remained to the enemy his redoubts to the right. General Count Morand marched thither, and carried them; but at nine in the morning, attacked on all sides, he could not maintain himself there. The enemy, encouraged by this advantage, made his reserve and his last troops advance to try his fortune again. The Imperial Guards formed a part of them. He attacked our centre, which formed the pivot to our right. For a moment it was feared that he might carry the village which was burnt; the division Friant advanced thither: 80 pieces of French cannon immediately arrest, and then annihilate the enemy's columns, which stood for two hours in close order under the chain-shot, not daring to advance, unwilling to retire, and renouncing the hope of victory. The King of Naples decided their uncertainty. He caused the 4th corps of cavalry to make a charge, who penetrated through the breaches which our cannon-shot had made in the condensed masses of the Russians, and the squadrons of their cuirassiers; they dispersed on all sides. The General of Division, Count Caulincourt, Governor of the Emperor's Pages, advanced at the head of the 5th regiment of cuirassiers, overthrew every thing, and entered the redoubt on the left by its gorge. From this moment there was no longer any uncertainty. The battle was gained. He turned upon the enemy the 21 pieces of cannon which were found in the redoubt. Count Caulincourt, who had distinguished himself in this fine charge, has terminated his career. He fell dead, struck by a bullet; a glorious death, and worthy to be envied.—It was now two in the afternoon; the enemy had lost all hope; the battle was ended, the cannonade still continued; the enemy fought for retreat and safety, but no longer for victory.—The loss of the enemy is enormous; from 12 to 13,000 men, and from 8 to 9,000 Russian horses, have been counted on the field of battle: 60 pieces of cannon and 5,000 prisoners have remained in our power.—We have had 2,500 killed, and thrice that number

wounded. Our total loss may be estimated at 10,000 men; that of the enemy, at from 40 to 50,000. Never was there seen such a field of battle. Out of six dead bodies, there were five Russians for one Frenchman. Forty Russian Generals were killed, wounded, or taken; General Bagration was wounded.—We have lost the General of Division Montbrun, killed by a cannon-ball; General Count Caulincourt, who was sent to occupy his place, was killed by a shot of the same kind, an hour afterwards.—The Generals of Brigade Compere, Plauzanne, Marion, and Huart, were killed; seven or eight Generals were wounded, the most of them slightly. The Prince of Eckmühl has received no injury. The French troops covered themselves with glory, and displayed their great superiority to the Russian troops.—Such, in a few words, is a sketch of the battle of Moskwa, fought a few leagues in the rear of Mojaïsk, and twenty-five leagues from Moscow, near the little river Moskwa. We fired 60,000 cannon-shot, which are already replaced by the arrival of 800 artillery carts, which passed Smolensko previous to the battle. All the woods and villages from the field of battle to this place are covered with dead and wounded. We have found here 2,000 killed or amputated Russians. A number of Generals and Colonels are prisoners.—The Emperor was never exposed; neither the foot nor horse guards were engaged, or lost a single man. The victory was never uncertain. Had the enemy, when driven from his intrenchments, not endeavoured to retake them, our loss would have been greater than his; but he destroyed his army by keeping it, from eight o'clock till two, under the fire of our batteries, and in obstinately attempting to regain that which was lost. This was the cause of his immense loss.—Every one distinguished himself. The King of Naples, and the Duke of Elchingen, were peculiarly conspicuous.—The artillery, and particularly that of the guards, surpassed itself. The actions which have rendered this day illustrious shall be made known in detailed reports.

“Monsieur Bishop of —, the passage of the Niemen, of the Dwina, the Borysthenes, the combats of Mohilow, of the Drissa, of Polotsk, of Ostrowno, of Smolensko, and, in fine, the battle of Moskwa, furnish so many respective reasons for addressing thanks to the God of armies; our will, therefore, is, that on receiving this present letter, you concert measures with those to whom it of right belongs. Assemble my



people in the churches to chant prayers, conformably to the usage of the Church in similar circumstances. This letter having no other object, I pray God to have you in his holy keeping.—From our Imperial quarters at Mojaïsk, the 10th of Sept. 1812.

“By the Emperor,                   NAPOLEON.  
“The Minister Secretary of State,  
“Count DARU.”

*Report to his Majesty the Emperor and King.*

Sire,—The result of the examination of the prisoners, of whom the greater part are ignorant recruits, or men taken before the close and off the field of battle, as well as almost all of them wounded with bullets, and the greater part dying, has afforded me the following information with regard to some divisions of the enemy's army.—1st. The 12th division, forming part of the 7th corps, composed of the infantry regiments of Smolensko, Narva, Alexopol, and New Ingria, as well as of the 6th and 41st regiments of foot chasseurs, and commanded by Major-General Palitzin, who had succeeded General Kulbakin, wounded at Mohilow, received its recruits, which were drawn from depots, and brought up by Miloradowitz on the 3d instant, in consequence of which the regiments of infantry were raised to 800 each, and the chasseur regiments to 1,200, which makes the strength of this division to have amounted, before the battle, to 4,800 men, exclusive of two companies of artillery, with twenty-four pieces of cannon, from 6 to 12 pounders.—On the day of the battle of the 7th of September, this division was stationed in the centre of the first line. About two in the afternoon it had already sustained great losses, and was in want of ammunition. A Lieutenant of the regiment of Alexopol, named Peter Voronin, who, having been sent to the reserve to demand more, lost his way among the brush-wood, and was taken after the retreat of the army, declares, that General Rajewsky, commanding the corps d'armée, received a severe contusion, which obliged him to quit the field of battle, and that the General in Chief, Prince Bagration, was wounded. All the prisoners of this division agree in stating, that it lost more than half of its number; that its confusion was complete at the time of its retreat; and that it owed its safety solely to Platow and Uvaroff, who covered it. Those of the 41st chasseurs say, that there scarcely remained 50 men

to each company.—2d. The 1st division of grenadiers, consisting of the grenadiers of the body guard, of St. Petersburg, Ekaterinoslay, Taurida, Pawlowski, and Arakschezeff, commanded by Count Strogonoff, and forming part of the 3d corps d'armée, was on the extremity of the left, in the rear of the battery, where it suffered considerably by the fire of the artillery; it was flanked by two squadrons of cuirassiers, which equally suffered without being brought into action. The respective strength of these grenadier regiments amounted, before the battle, to from 8 to 900 men.—Their loss is estimated at one-third, which they ascribe to the cowardice of the officers, who abandoned their ranks, and concealed themselves in the brush-wood.—Two regiments of chasseurs attached to this division, which were stationed in advance, were dispersed; their loss is unknown.—A soldier, named Gregoriot de Pskow, who has served for nine years in the regiment of St. Petersburg, declares, that he never saw his regiment give way as it did on this occasion. He says, that before the battle, Gen. Koutouzoff rode along their line, and harangued his troops, which, however, did not produce much effect. This man adds, that he heard Major Dalin, the commandant of his regiment, say, that about mid-day Beningsen had gone 40 versts beyond Mojaïsk, to prepare there the means of defence: he believes that he went to Little Viasma.—It was not known what had become of Tutsckow, the Commander in Chief of the 3d corps, or of the 3d division of Kanowitzin, which formed part of it.—3d. The 2d division of grenadiers, consisting of the regiments of Astracan, Fanagoria, Kioff, Moscow, Little Russia, and Siberia, commanded by Prince Charles of Mecklenburgh, and forming part of the 8th corps of Borosdin, was stationed on the 5th of September at the great redoubt, which was taken on the same day, and where it lost its cannon, a Colonel, and more than the half of its men. The regiments of this division were quite full on arriving at Smolensko; but they had not more than 1,000 each on the 5th, before the action; and numbered not more than from 7 to 800 each, on the morning of the 7th, when they were in the village which they were charged to defend, in advance of the batteries of the left flank. It was at this time that the Prince of Mecklenburgh was wounded.—4th. The 2d corps of Bagavout had manœuvred on the 6th and 7th, in order to advance to the left of the line, to support the 3d corps. All



the prisoners assert, that not one half of it returned to Mojaïsk. —The musketeer regiments of Minsk, Tobolsk, Volhynia, and Krementschug, as well as the 4th and 34th chasseurs of the 4th division, commanded by the Prince of Wirtemberg, amounted to 800 men each; and after the battle, none of them could muster 400: it was the same with the regiments of Raizan, Belosersky, Bresc, and Wilmanstradt, as well as the 30th and 48th chasseurs of the division of Alsoufieff. —A subaltern of the regiment of Raizan, named Prohoroff, declares, that his Colonel, Avens, was killed; and that during the retreat, he saw on the bank of the river, the General in Chief Tutschkow wounded, as well as the Colonel of the grenadiers of Moscow. This corps had few officers killed, but many wounded. —5th. The 24th division of the 6th corps, which was stationed in the grand central battery, mustered after the battle only 30 men each company, though two days before they amounted to 100 each in the regiments of Shirwansk, Butinkas, Usa, and Tomsk; while the companies of the 19th and 40th chasseurs amounted to 115 men each, by means of recruits drawn from Novogorod-Sewersky. —6th. The 2d division of the guards, composed of the Ismailoff and Lithuanian regiments of grenadiers, and of two chasseur regiments of the guards, and of Finland, under the orders of General Lawroff, were stationed in line in the rear of the three batteries on the left of the centre. These regiments suffered considerably from the artillery; but that of Ismailoff having advanced with the bayonet, was so vigorously charged by the cavalry, that not more than 40 men of each company were left to it. General Krapowitski, commanding a brigade, and the Colonel of the regiment of Ismailoff, were there wounded.

SOKOLNICKI, Gen. of Division,  
Charged with a special service.

*Mojaïsk, Sept. 10, 1812.*

*Nineteenth Bulletin of the Grand Army.  
Moscow, Sept. 16.*

After the battle of the Moskwa, the French army pursued the enemy upon Moscow, by the three routes, Mojaïsk, Svenigorod, and Kalouga. —The King of Naples was on the 9th at Koubinskoe, the Viceroy at Rouza, and Prince Poniatowski at Feminskoe. The head-quarters were on the 12th transferred from Mojaïsk to Peselina; on the 13th they were at the castle of Berwska; on the 14th, at mid-day, we en-

tered Moscow. The enemy had raised on the Sparrow Mountain, two wersts from the city, some redoubts, which he abandoned.

—The city of Moscow is as large as Paris; it is an extremely rich city, full of palaces of all the nobles of the empire. The Russian Governor, Rostapchin, wished to ruin this fine city when he saw it abandoned by the Russian army. He had armed 3,000 malefactors, whom he had taken from the dungeons; he also summoned together 6,000 satellites, and distributed arms among them from the arsenal. —Our advanced guard, arrived in the centre of the city, was received by a fire of musketry, which issued from the Kremlin. The King of Naples ordered a battery of a few pieces of cannon to be opened, dispersed this rabble, and took possession of the Kremlin. We have found in the arsenal 60,000 new muskets, and 120 pieces of cannon on their carriages. The most complete anarchy reigned in the city; some drunken madmen ran through its different quarters, and every where set fire to them. The Governor Rostapchin had caused all the merchants and shopkeepers to be carried off, through whose instrumentality order might have been re-established. More than 400 French and Germans were arrested by his orders; in fine, he had taken the precaution of carrying off the firemen with the fire-engines; so that the most complete anarchy has desolated this great and fine city, and the flames are devouring it. We have found in it considerable resources of every kind. The Emperor is lodged in the Kremlin, which is in the centre of the city, like a kind of citadel, surrounded by high walls. Thirty thousand wounded or sick Russians are in the hospitals, abandoned, without succour and without nourishment. —The Russians acknowledge that they lost fifty thousand men in the battle of the Moskwa. Prince Bagration was mortally wounded. A list has been made of the Russian Generals wounded or killed in the battle: it amounts to between forty-five and fifty.

*Twentieth Bulletin of the Grand Army.  
Moscow, Sept. 17.*

The Russians have celebrated *Te Deum* for the battle of Polotsk. *Te Deums* have been sung for the battles of Riga, for the battle of Ostrowno, and for that of Smolensko. According to the Russian accounts, they were every where conquerors, and they drove the French to a great distance



from the field of battle. It was then, amidst the strains of the Russian *Te Deums*, that the army arrived at Moscow. There they thought themselves conquerors, at least the populace thought so, for well-informed persons knew what was passing. —Moscow is the *entrepot* of Asia and of Europe. Its warehouses were immense; every house was provided for eight months with necessaries of every description. It was only the evening before, and the day of our entrance, that the danger became known. We found in the house of the miserable Rostopchin some papers, and a letter half written; he fled without finishing it. —Moscow, one of the finest and richest cities in the world, is no more. On the 14th the Russians set fire to the Exchange, to the Bazar, and the Hospital. On the 16th a violent wind arose. Three or four hundred ruffians set fire to the city in 500 different places at the same moment, by order of the Governor Rostopchin. Five-sixths of the houses were built of wood; the fire spread with a prodigious rapidity; it was an ocean of flame. Churches, of which there were 1,600—above 1,000 palaces, immense magazines, nearly all have fallen a prey to the flames. The Kremlin has been preserved. —Their loss is incalculable for Russia, for her commerce, and for her nobility, who had left all there. It is not over-rating its value to state it at many millions. —About 100 of these incendiaries have been apprehended and shot: all of them declared that they acted under the orders of Rostopchin, and the Director of the Police. —Thirty thousand sick and wounded Russians have been burnt. The richest commercial houses in Russia are ruined. The shock must be considerable. The clothing, the magazines, and the equipments of the Russian army have been consumed. They have thus lost every thing; they would remove nothing, because they always thought it impossible for us to reach Moscow, and because they were willing to deceive the people. When they saw all in the hands of the French, they conceived the horrible project of destroying by fire this first capital, this holy city, the centre of the empire; and they have reduced to beggary 200,000 respectable inhabitants. This is the crime of Rostopchin, executed by felons liberated from the prisons. The resources which the army had found are consequently much diminished; however, we have collected, and are still collecting a number of necessaries. All the cellars are untouched by the fire, and

the inhabitants, during the last twenty-four hours, had saved many articles. They endeavoured to stop the progress of the flames, but the Governor had taken the horrid precaution to carry off or destroy all the engines. —The army is recovering from its fatigues; it has abundance of bread, potatoes, cabbages, and other vegetables, meat, salted provisions, wine, brandy, sugar, coffee, and, in short, provisions of all sorts. —The advanced guard is twenty wersts on the road to Kassau, by which the enemy is retreating. Another French advanced guard is on the road to St. Petersburg, where the enemy has not a single soldier. —The temperature is still that of autumn; the soldiers have found, and continue to find, a number of pelisses and furs for the winter. Moscow was the depot of those articles.

#### RUSSIAN BULLETINS.

*Official Intelligence from General Barclay de Tolly, dated Umolze, 9, (21) Aug. 1812.*

After my last official report to your Imperial Majesty, very important events have taken place respecting the positions of the army. —On the 3d (15th) August, a report was received from Major-General Newerauskye, that the enemy, who advanced in great force towards Krasnow, had pushed on his advanced guards to Lady; in the mean time I also received information that Napoleon had left Witepsk, and concentrated his whole force near Balamoutzchy, Orocha, and Dubrowna. —In consequence of this, it was immediately determined that the 2d army should march to Smolensk, and after uniting all its corps on the left bank of the Dnieper, halt. The 1st army was to approach Smolensk, or act offensively, should the enemy divide his forces. On the night of the same day Lieutenant-General Rajewski reported that Major-General Newerauskye, after having been attacked by a superior force, had found himself under the necessity of retreating, after having suffered considerable loss, and that he was only 7 wersts from Smolensk. All the other accounts agreed in stating that the enemy with his whole force were passing to the left bank of the Dnieper, in consequence of which, without loss of time, I immediately put the army in motion, and in the night of the 4th (16th) arrived near Smolensk, just as the enemy were making a heavy attack on



Lieut.-General Rajewski's corps. This affair has already been made known to your Majesty by the Commander-in-Chief of the 2d army, and serves as a new proof of the invincible courage of your Majesty's troops. Having ascertained that the enemy concentrated their whole force at one point, and had even drawn Prince Poniatowski's corps to their assistance, it was to be supposed, his real intention was to anticipate us in Dorogubush, or any other point by which he might obtain possession of the Moscow road. Taking this into consideration, we determined, together with Prince Bagration, that the 7th army should occupy Smolensk, and remain on the right bank of the Dnieper, and by that means cover the march of the 2d army to Dorogubush. In the night between the 4th and 5th (16th and 17th) this plan was executed.—The 6th corps, to which was attached the 3d division of infantry, took possession of Smolensk and all the outposts.—The 2d army, which put itself in motion on the same night, took its position 15 wersts from Smolensk, and sent the irregular troops towards Jilnœ and Rosbowl to observe the enemy. Meanwhile the enemy concentrated their whole force, and brought 150,000 men against Smolensk.—On the 5th (17th), at one p. m. they attacked our troops, who were drawn up on the road from Krosno and other points round Smolensk, but after an engagement, which continued without intermission for three hours, they were repulsed at every point. At 5 p. m. after bringing a strong column of their forces, and an uncommonly numerous artillery forward, they attacked the city in every direction, but all their efforts and endeavours were vain; although they drove back our advanced troops even to the ruins of the walls of Smolensk, and appeared determined to storm the city, our valiant troops not only defeated them back to such a distance, that at night our advanced guards were placed without the walls. The attack of the enemy was very impetuous, but they received their recompense in their loss, which was so incredibly great that ours bear no proportion to it, although we had 4,000 killed or wounded.—Our intention in defending Smolensk was to arrest the enemy, and prevent their arrival at Jilna and Dorogubush, and thereby give Prince Bagration time to arrive, without opposition, at the latter place; the further defence could have been no longer useful, but only on the contrary have occasioned

the loss of our valiant soldiers; for which reason, after having successfully repulsed a severe attack, I determined, in the night between the 5th and 6th (17th and 18th) to leave it; but still keeping possession of the suburbs, called St. Petersburg, and with the whole army take possession of the heights opposite Smolensk, and to appear as if waiting their attack.—The enemy, after garrisoning the town, skirmished the whole day with our Yagers, who were posted in the suburbs of which during the whole evening; they attempted to take possession, but were constantly driven back. Nevertheless, during the night they succeeded in throwing a bridge across above the suburbs and in repairing the old one in the suburbs.—At 7 p. m. when no further attack from the enemy was expected, a part of the army which formed the 2d column of the 2d and 3d corps of the cavalry, and 5th and 6th of infantry, and a part of Major-General Newerowkye, under General Docktorow, put themselves in motion, and continued their march through Sakilena, Bisklow, &c. At 9 p. m. the first column, consisting of the 2d, 3d, and 4th divisions of infantry, and of the first four of reserve of cavalry, under the command of Lieut.-General Kutusow, marched by the way of Krachatschens, Gedonow, &c. to the high road of Dorogubush, but the troops under the command of Major-General Baraskorf who garrisoned the Petersburg suburbs, marched on the 7th (19th) two hours after midnight, and formed the rear-guard of the front column.—General Platow detached part of his light troops, and formed a chain of detachments from Smolensk to Porilschiji, in such a manner, that we could approach with both columns to the Dnieper, and that these detachments should approach each other and form a mass, which could be freely used on all sides. On the retreat of Major-General Korf, at three p. m. the enemy began to pursue, and at the same time detached a great part of his troops in the high road to Moscow, and scarcely had the 2d corps passed the village of Gidenowo, where the road divides, one of which leads to Moscow, and the other to Bridichens, to which the first column marched when the enemy drove back the rear-guard, which was on the high Moscow road, and whilst they were furiously advancing to take possession of those points which the rear-guard of Major-General Korf's division had to pass. To prevent any danger to this General's detachment, which co-



vered the retreat of the army on the main road, and was still at six wersts' distance from the second corps, I ordered Major-General Prince Wirtemberg to defend this post with some troops of the 4th division, and the necessary quantity of artillery, till Major-General Korf should arrive with his detachment. Notwithstanding the immense superiority of the enemy, the Prince of Wirtemberg kept possession of this post till Major-General Korf, with his detachment, joined him, and then protected our retreat.—The enemy, who did not succeed in this operation, now began to force Major-General Korpon's corps, which we posted along the great road to Moscow, and to pass troops from the left to the right of the Dnieper, above his position, to become masters of the points which lead to the great road before the arrival of the 2d corps. The 3d and 4th corps were already drawn up in order of battle at this place, but in order to detain the enemy, the advanced guard, under Major-General Tutschkow, was sent against them.—It was already four wersts from the high road, on which the 2d division of cavalry and Major-General Korf's detachment must pass. Not long after, Major-General Tutschkow was much pressed by the enemy, and was supported by the 3d and 4th divisions of cavalry, in order to assist in repelling the furious attacks of the enemy.—At six, p. m. the enemy attacked Major-General Tutschkow with their whole force, consisting of Davoust's, Ney's, a part of the Viceroy of Italy's, and with the cavalry of the King of Naples' corps, endeavouring, by every possible exertion, to drive him from his position. In the mean time, Major-General Korf's detachment, and the second corps arrived on the high road, from whence I also sent a part of the troops to support General Tutschkow. This action, which lasted from one, p. m. till ten at night, was hot and bloody. Your Majesty's troops acted most gallantly, and notwithstanding the immense superiority of the enemy, kept possession of this, to us, most important point.—Our loss on this day is very considerable, but that of the enemy greatly exceeds it. We had cavalry attached to our left flank, which, notwithstanding the superior number of the enemy's cavalry, repulsed several desperate charges. At one o'clock of the morning of the 8th (20th) the army put itself in motion, taking the direction of Solowjewo, whence yesterday a part of the troops had passed the Dnieper, and the remainder to-

day.—The whole army will take a position in the road, half way to Dogorobush, where the 2d army yesterday arrived. The greater part of the irregular troops are on the right bank of the Dnieper, and keep up the communication with the detachment of Adjutant-General Baron Winzengerode, who has been ordered to take post at Duchawischteschine.—In these different engagements we have taken 500 officers and soldiers prisoners, and the irregular troops have during the same time made 800 prisoners.

*From General Barclay de Tolli, dated the 26th August.*

After dispatching my most submissive report to your Majesty on the 9th (21st) August, I received information that the enemy had crossed to the right bank of the Dnieper with his whole force, below Smolensk, and sent forward part of the 4th corps under the Viceroy of Italy, towards Duchowochtschina, and was, with the remainder, in pursuit of the Army under my command. The rear was on the 9th under the necessity of retreating entirely to the passage of the Dnieper by Soloujow. The first army, which on the evening of the 9th, marched out, the following morning took a position near the village of Uswat, on the right bank of the Usha, after having strengthened the rear-guard under General Platow, and commanded him to detain the enemy as much as possible. On the 23d a small alteration was made in our positions. The 2d Army, which had marched from Dorogobush, took a position on the left wing of the 1st Army, leaving behind it a strong detachment of infantry and cavalry near Dorogobush, on the right bank of the Dnieper, under the command of Major-General Newerouske. In the mean time both rear-guards had joined, and at every step detained the enemy, nor did they retreat towards Uswat till the evening of the 23d.—The enemy approached, reconnoitred our position, and endeavoured to turn our left flank, whilst they approached from the side of Duchowochtschina towards Dorogobush, and appeared so near that Prince Bagration feared being cut off from the road to Julna, by which, in case of misfortune, he must retreat. At night, between the 11th and 12th (23d and 24th) both armies retreated on the road to Dorogobush.—The 2d corps took a position on the right bank of the Dnieper, and Major-General Newe-

*(To be continued.)*



# ENGLISH LIBERTY OF THE PRESS,

*As illustrated in the Prosecution and Punishment of*

WILLIAM COBBETT.

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In order that my countrymen and that the world may not be deceived, duped, and cheated upon this subject, I, WILLIAM COBBETT, of Botley, in Hampshire, put upon record the following facts; to wit: That, on the 24th June, 1809, the following article was published in a London news-paper, called the *CORRIER*:—"The Mutiny amongst the *LO-CAL MILITIA*, which broke out at Ely, was *fortunately* suppressed on Wednesday by the *arrival* of four squadrons of the *GERMAN LEGION CAVALRY* from Bury, under the command of General Auckland. Five of the *ringleaders* were tried by a Court-Martial, and *sentenced to receive 500 lashes each*, part of which *punishment* they received on Wednesday, and *a part* was remitted. *A stoppage for their knap-sacks* was the ground of the complaint that *cited* this mutinous spirit, which occasioned *the men to surround their officers*, and demand *what they deemed their arrears*. The first *division of the German Legion halted yesterday* *at Newmarket on their return to Bury.*"—That, on the 1st July, 1809, I published, in the *Political Register*, an article censuring, in the strongest terms, these proceedings; that, for so doing, the Attorney General prosecuted, as seditious libellers, and by *Ex-Officio* Information, me, and also my printer, my publisher, and one of the principal retailers of the *Political Register*; that I was brought to trial on the 15th June, 1810, and was, by a Special Jury, that is to say, by 12 men out of 48 appointed by the Master of the Crown Office, found guilty; that, on the 20th of the same month, I was compelled to give bail for my appearance to receive judgment; and that, as I came up from Botley (to which place I had returned to my family and my farm on the evening of the 15th), a Tipstaff went down from London in order to seize me, personally; that, on the 9th of July, 1810, I, together with my printer, publisher, and the news-man, were brought into the Court of King's Bench to receive judgment; that the three former were sentenced to be imprisoned for some months in the King's Bench prison; that I was sentenced to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate, the great receptacle for malefactors, and the front of which is the scene of numerous hangings in the course of every year; that the part of the prison in which I was sentenced to be confined is sometimes inhabited by felons, that felons were actually in it at the time I entered it; that one man was taken out of it to be transported in about 48 hours after I was put into the same yard with him; and that it is the place of confinement for men guilty of unnatural crimes, of whom there are four in it at this time; that, besides this imprisonment, I was sentenced to pay a thousand pounds *TO THE KING*, and to give security for my good behaviour for seven years, myself in the sum of 3,000 pounds, and

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two sureties in the sum of 1,000 pounds each; that the whole of this sentence has been executed upon me, that I have been imprisoned the two years, have paid the thousand pounds *TO THE KING*, and have given the bail, Timothy Brown and Peter Walker, Esqrs. being my sureties; that the Attorney General was Sir Vicary Gibbs, the Judge who sat at the trial Lord Ellenborough, the four Judges who sat at passing sentence Ellenborough, Grose, Le Blanc, and Bailey; and that the jurors were, Thomas Rhodes of Hampstead Road, John Davis of Sonthampton Place, James Ellis of Tottenham Court Road, John Richards of Bayswater, Thomas Marsham of Baker Street, Robert Heathcote of High Street Marylebone, John Maud of York Place Marylebone, George Bagster of Church Terrace Pancras, Thomas Taylor of Red Lion Square, David Deane of St. John Street, William Palmer of Upper Street Islington, Henry Favre of Pall Mall; that the Prime Ministers during the time were Spencer Perceval, until he was shot by John Bellingham, and after that Robert B. Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool; that the prosecution and sentence took place in the reign of King George the Third, and that, he having become insane during my imprisonment, the 1,000 pounds was paid to his son, the Prince Regent, in his behalf; that, during my imprisonment, I wrote and published 364 Essays and Letters upon political subjects; that, during the same time, I was visited by persons from 197 cities and towns, many of them as a sort of deputies from Societies or Clubs; that, at the expiration of my imprisonment, on the 9th of July, 1812, a great dinner was given in London for the purpose of receiving me, at which dinner upwards of 600 persons were present, and at which Sir Francis Burdett presided; that dinners and other parties were held on the same occasion in many other places in England; that, on my way home, I was received at Alton, the first town in Hampshire, with the ringing of the Church bells; that a respectable company met me and gave me a dinner at Winchester; that I was drawn from more than the distance of a mile into Botley by the people; that, upon my arrival in the village, I found all the people assembled to receive me; that I concluded the day by explaining to them the cause of my imprisonment, and by giving them clear notions respecting the flogging of the Local Militia-men at Ely, and respecting the employment of German Troops; and, finally, which is more than a compensation for my losses and all my sufferings, I am in perfect health and strength, and, though I must, for the sake of six children, feel the diminution that has been made in my property (thinking it right in me to decline the offer of a subscription), I have the consolation to see growing up three sons, upon whose hearts, I trust, all these facts will be engraven.

WM. COBBETT.

Botley, July 23, 1812.

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